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WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL SAYS UN MUST ENFORCE IRAQI DISARMAMENT

Iraq continues to deceive, not cooperate, says Rice

By Howard Cincotta

Washington File Staff Writer Washington

The UN Security Council must enforce the provisions of Resolution 1441 calling for "serious consequences" if Iraq does not immediately and fully disarm its weapons of mass destruction, according to White House National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice.

Appearing February 16 on NBC's Meet the Press and Fox News Sunday, Rice argued that nations calling for more time are playing into Saddam Hussein's hands. "He's played this game before," she said on Fox News Sunday. "He will continue to try to deceive, and he will continue to try to split the Council."

Sooner or later, according to Rice, the United Nations will have to conclude that Iraq has failed its final opportunity to comply. "The Security Council is going to have to act," Rice said, "or the United States will have to act with a coalition of the willing."

This has not been a three-month process, as some have suggested, Rice said, but a road that the world has traveled for 12 years since the 1991 Gulf War. "It's time for this to end," she said on Meet the Press. "Enough is enough."

Rice said that the United States is discussing language for another UN resolution, but stressed that any new

resolution cannot be another delaying tactic, but reaffirm the provisions of 1441.

On Meet the Press, Rice said, "If you want a peaceful resolution to this crisis, the way to get it is not to take the pressure off Saddam Hussein, not to give him the view that he can somehow continue to play cheat and retreat, but to let him know that the Security Council is going to stand united this time, it is going to enforce its resolutions this time, and that he'd better comply and disarm or the world will disarm him."

Rice contended that inspectors are in Iraq only because the Security Council, prodded by President Bush's September 2002 speech, has put enormous pressure on Iraq. "If that pressure releases," she said, "I can assure you that we are not going to get to a peaceful solution."

Rice denied that the current inspections process is working. Iraq filed a false declaration in December, she pointed out, and UN weapons inspectors Hans Blix and Mohamed ElBaradei continue to call for greater cooperation.

"They give a little bit here on process, a little bit there to show that a few people can be interviewed in a hotel, which is clearly monitored," Rice said on Fox News Sunday. "But when it comes to answering the tough questions about VX or anthrax, or those mobile biological laboratories, the Iraqis have failed to do that. So they're not cooperating, they're deceiving."

Rice said that the weekend protests against a possible war demonstrate the freedom of expression denied to the Iraqi people. "These are people who are tortured, who are beaten, whose tongues are cut out for saying anything against the government."

Questioned about evidence that Iraqis are cleaning up weapons sites prior to inspections, Rice said that the U.S. had sources confirming Iraqi efforts to frustrate and deceive the inspectors. She also said that the U.S. is continuing to provide UN inspectors with "the highest priority intelligence that they can act on."

However, she said on Meet the Press, "Intelligence is not a substitute for Iraqi cooperation. Let's remember that the purpose of 1441 was not for the world to prove that Saddam Hussein did or did not have weapons of mass destruction. It was for Saddam Hussein to come clean, have one final opportunity to do what the countries do when they want to come clean, which is to say to the

world, 'Here's what I have. Come in, inspect it, verify.'"

Looking ahead to a post-Saddam era, Rice said that, if force is necessary, the United States will maintain the territorial integrity of Iraq, provide for the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people, and work to ensure peace and security in the region.

"The Iraqi people," she said, "having been liberated from Saddam Hussein, have a chance to build a better future."

POWELL SAYS MILITARY ACTION IN IRAQ WOULD BE "SWIFT"

Interview with Los Angeles Times February 10

Secretary of State Colin Powell said if, as a "last resort," military action is required to disarm Iraq, the military operation would be "swift," with the purpose of putting in place a "responsible regime" committed to disarming Iraq of weapons of mass destruction.

Interviewed February 10 by the Los Angeles Times Editorial Board, Powell said that the military action would be conducted in such a way as to preserve Iraq's infrastructure and avoid harming civilians.

"We would do everything we could to preserve infrastructure, to make sure that civilians are not injured during this operation, and start to redirect the energies of that nation and the wealth of that nation and the great talent that exists in that nation in a more positive direction," said Powell.

"Twenty billion dollars a year of oil revenue is available to the people of Iraq. We would protect that treasure, make sure that that oil is used for the benefit of the people, and hopefully we could go home as quickly as we have established something that is stable, keeps the country intact, is representative of all the people," Powell added.

Once military action was complete, Powell said, the U.S. would disengage as "quickly" and "safely" as possible, "making sure we haven't left instability in our wake."

Powell acknowledged the "complex political problem" that exists in Iraq and noted that the time it will take to disarm Iraq and establish a new regime will greatly

depend on how quickly the Iraqi people are able to come together.

"...[I]t is going to be a very demanding task and there should be no illusions about it, and it is not going to be something that's a matter of weeks. I think it's going to be an extended period," Powell said.

Powell said that much of the current criticism against a military operation in Iraq could quickly turn into support.

"If we are seen as having to go to war and prosecuting that war in the way America knows how to prosecute a war -- and that is, do it quickly, do it decisively, do it surgically, with minimum loss of civilian life or collateral damage, and swift moves, and take over a country and then quickly demonstrate that our sole goal in being in that country is to help the country -- then I think opinion might change very, very quickly, and all of the risks that we are taking could quickly dissipate," Powell said.

Addressing concerns that the United States wants to occupy Iraq, Powell said the U.S. is "not just a rogue nation bouncing our way around the world and intimidating everybody and going where we want to and attacking any way we want to."

"...[O]ur record is not one of imperial reach or going out to gain sovereignty over places or impose our will on anybody. What we have gone forth to do, really, is to allow people to impose their will on their own government and decide who should be their leaders, rather than dictators and oppressors who were their leaders," Powell said.

In response to a question on what model the future Iraq government would be based, Powell said that a variety of models are being considered, but emphasized that the model would be one unique to Iraq.

"This is a country that will be intact. Its institutions will still be there," Powell added. "...[I]t's a matter of making sure that those institutions have now been purged of the kind of dictatorial leadership that was pursuing weapons of mass destruction and abusing human rights."

Touching briefly on U.S.-Saudi relations, Powell said, "the reason we have most of the military presence in Saudi Arabia that we do have, is because of Iraq. And if Iraq is no longer the issue, then obviously we could talk to the Saudis about readjusting our footprint."

Powell also noted that Saudi Arabia "is starting to enter a period of change and transformation" on the issue of gender equality.

Saudi Arabia "is coming to the realization that you cannot continue to deny opportunity to half your population on the basis of gender. They are coming to the realization that they need to educate their young people. It's a very young population. They need to educate the young people of Saudi Arabia for the jobs that are going to be out there and for the needs that the society has," Powell said.

U.S., U.N. PREPARE TO MEET HUMANITARIAN NEEDS IN IRAQ

Helping civilians a key element of U.S. plan

By Charlene Porter

Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Providing humanitarian assistance will be an "immediate objective," if the United States becomes engaged in a military conflict with Iraq, says Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Marc Grossman.

Grossman presented "some views on what the future might look like" after a war in Iraq in congressional testimony February 11, and other U.S. officials the same week outlined a multi-pronged plan for meeting civilian needs in coordination with United Nations agencies and private non-governmental organizations.

Meeting humanitarian needs is one of five key principles guiding senior officials, Grossman said, as they consider the possibility of a conflict with Iraq. "Those who have fled their homes in fear will have to be cared for. Essential supply lines for food, medicine, water and fuel will have to be restored," Grossman told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

A commitment to help Iraqis in a postwar period is a fundamental element of Defense Department planning, according to Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Douglas J. Feith. He told the Senate panel that an international coalition cannot engage in military action in Iraq "and then leave a mess behind for the Iraqi people to clean up without a helping hand."

Even while these officials discussed postwar humanitarian and reconstruction activity, they also spoke of war in conditional terms -- a possibility, not an inevitability.

In a January 20 directive, President Bush ordered the creation of a postwar planning office, organized within the Defense Department and known as the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance. Feith said the office is working to establish relationships with the players who will be involved in a humanitarian and reconstruction effort -- U.N. agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and various expatriate Iraqi groups.

Feith said the group has developed an operational concept that would ease the delivery of aid, create a structure for U.S. forces to coordinate relief, and restart a distribution system for aid using U.S. supplies until the time that international aid arrives on the scene.

Retired Lieutenant General Jay Garner is leading the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance, Feith said. Garner held a senior military position in the 1991 humanitarian relief operation in northern Iraq.

Grossman said a total of \$50 million dollars has been earmarked for the planning process by the United States alone, and other international donors are also responding to a U.N. request for support of humanitarian efforts in Iraq. "As a result, food shelter items and water bladders are ready," Grossman told the Senate panel. "A substantial amount of work has been done on meeting the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people, and still more is being done by a number of agencies and organizations in Washington, New York and around the world."

The U.N. emergency aid coordinator Kenzo Oshima said in a press briefing February 13 that donors have pledged \$30 million to the Iraq preparedness effort in response to a December appeal. The U.N. will be asking donors for another \$90 million as aid agencies strive to achieve what was described as a higher level of preparedness.

In shaping their plans, U.N. agencies are assuming that a conflict in Iraq would disrupt critical infrastructure and the delivery of basic services and food rations on which 60 percent of the population currently depend, according to World Food Program estimates.

Oshima said up to 10 million people might need food assistance during and immediately after the conflict. U.N. agencies are estimating that 600,000 to 1.45 million

people could become refugees, and 2 million people could be internally displaced as they flee their homes in the face of military action.

The relief agencies are working to put stockpiles in place even though many uncertainties about possible needs remain. According to a summary of the Oshima press briefing, the supplies put in place so far include a ten-week food supply for 250,000; hygiene and water supplies for 300,000 people; and emergency health kits for 240,000.

Though relief agencies are relying on a lot of guesswork to determine humanitarian needs in the aftermath of a conflict, certain things are known about existing hardships in Iraq. About 1 million children under the age of five are chronically malnourished, and 5 million Iraqis do not have access to safe water and sanitation, Oshima said

TREASURY OFFICIAL REVIEWS SCOPE OF U.S.-EU ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Trade, investment are "largest and most complex on earth," says Dam

Over the last decade, the U.S.-EU economic relationship, when measured as trade plus investment, has swelled into the largest and most complex on earth, according to Kenneth Dam, Deputy U.S. Treasury Secretary.

In a wide-ranging address to the Atlantic Council in Washington on February 13, Dam said that, contrary to news headlines that highlight economic conflict, "U.S. investors are deeply invested in Europe's growth, and vice-versa."

Dam examined several dimensions of the U.S.-EU economic relationship, including cooperation in closing off terrorist financing, and in establishing transparent and equitable rules for investments, financial services, and accounting procedures.

He noted that the Bush Administration's initiatives to eliminate agricultural export subsidies and reduce agricultural support payments will present a challenge

for Europe in reforming its Common Agricultural Policy. However, Dam said, “Our agricultural proposal is far more forward-looking and more beneficial to the developing world than anything under consideration in the EU.”

The U.S.-EU economic relationship covers much more than trade, said Dam. “We have devoted new resources to fighting the financial war on terrorism, and are collaborating with our EU counterparts on new financial and regulatory changes.”

Dam praised European cooperation in tracing and freezing the financial assets of terrorist organizations, but identified three areas of continuing concern. First is the need to streamline the process for submitting and designating terrorist names, Dam said. Second, the assets of so-called “internal terrorists” remain unblocked in a number of European countries. Third, Dam said, the EU should join the U.S. in labeling Hamas and Hizballah as terrorist organizations.

The U.S., according to Dam, rejects the view of many European countries that a “firewall” exists between the “charitable” or “political” wings of Hamas and Hizballah and their terrorist units.

“Not only is money fungible,” Dam observed, “but no evidence has been brought forward to establish the existence of any such “firewall.” Nor is there any reason to suppose that terrorists within either organization respect such niceties.”

With regard to the EU’s plans to establish a single financial market by 2005, Dam said, “Our most general concern is in seeing that the process of European capital market integration is well-managed and that the process of formulating new legislation and rules is transparent and fair to all market participants.”

He cited several areas in which intensive discussions are continuing, including the Financial Conglomerates Directive affecting supervision of U.S.-based investment banks, and differences on the convergence of accounting standards.

The Financial Markets Dialogue, Dam said, has been a successful forum for establishing sound financial markets regulation. “I have been impressed by the depth and professionalism of the talks thus far,” he said.

Dam offered a strong endorsement for the EU enlargement process. “Despite the natural economic linkages created by close proximity with Western Europe,” he said, “U.S. investors have benefited significantly from the opportunities offered in the EU accession countries.”

The U.S.-EU economic relationship, Dam concluded, “is characterized by deep cooperation on common public goals and complex integration of private pursuits. While important challenges remain, I expect the relationship to be a source of strength, stability, and opportunity in the years to come.”

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